

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 23, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Larry Steven Kirkpatrick was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Irma E. Gonzalez to serve 188 months in custody, based on Kirkpatrick's convictions for violent crime in aid of racketeering and conspiracy to distribute 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

In connection with his guilty plea on May 25, 2005, Kirkpatrick admitted that on October 30, 2002, he attempted to murder John Bohacik to gain entrance into the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels motorcycle club. According to court documents, Kirkpatrick shot Bohacik seven times under the mistaken assumption that Bohacik was a member of a rival motorcycle club, the Mongols. At Kirkpatrick's sentencing hearing, Bohacik told the Court that he lost his job, his wife, and his health as a result of the shooting. Bohacik said he spent months in the hospital recuperating from life-threatening injuries, faces several additional surgeries, and is still not able to work. He has moved three times because he fears for his safety.

As part of his guilty plea, Kirkpatrick also admitted that he managed and supervised a group that distributed over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana and that he possessed a firearm in connection with the drug crime.

The Court ordered Kirkpatrick to pay restitution to Bohacik. The amount of the restitution will be decided at a hearing set for September 26, 2005. The Court also ordered that Kirkpatrick serve a five-year term of supervised release following his release from prison, during which time Kirkpatrick will not be allowed to associate with the Hells Angels.

At the same hearing, Judge Gonzalez sentenced Patrick Haggerty, a member of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels, to serve 57 months in custody, based on Haggerty's conviction for violent crime in aid of racketeering. The Court also ordered that Haggerty serve a three-year term of supervised release following his release from prison, during which time Haggerty will not be allowed to associate with the Hells Angels. On May 25, 2005, Haggerty pled guilty to violent crime in aid of racketeering. According to court documents, Haggerty conspired with members of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels to murder members of the Mongols motorcycle club. The conversations of Haggerty and others were intercepted pursuant to court-authorized wiretaps from July 2002 through May 2003.

In June 2003, Haggerty and Kirkpatrick, along with ten other members of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels, were indicted by a federal grand jury on racketeering charges involving conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking, and extortion, among other crimes. To date, eight members or associates of the Hells Angels have pled guilty to racketeering charges. They are scheduled to be sentenced at various times over the next two months. The two remaining Hells Angels defendants are set to begin trial on October 25, 2005.

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Narcotics Task Force, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the San Diego Police Department, and the El Cajon Police Department, which culminated in the successful prosecution and criminal convictions of Kirkpatrick and Haggerty.

DEFENDANTS

Name: Larry Steven Kirkpatrick

Name: Patrick James Haggerty

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(5) – Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering

Maximum Penalty: 10 years' custody
\$250,000 fine
Three years of supervised release

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 – Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana

Maximum Penalty: Life imprisonment
\$4,000,000 fine
Five years of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration

Narcotics Task Force

San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

San Diego Police Department

El Cajon Police Department